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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
Room 133, Brookfield Town Hall**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. Those present included, J. Hanson (RE), D. DeMuth (BE), M. Flanagan (BE), C. Praissman (BK), E. Rossini (RI), R. Bingham (Winters), B. Creighton (AAW), and J. Iannucci and C. Reedy (HRRRA). Kristine Legava from Brookfield also attended. There was no one on the phone for the meeting.

Approval of minutes

Motion by J. Hanson, second by E. Rossini, to approve the minutes of October 1, 2015, as presented.

Vote: All in favor.

2016 Municipal/School Recycling Goals

D. DeMuth outlined the recycling goals for the **Bethel Schools** for 2016 including:

- Finding and using more green cleaning products and trying to reach full compliance with state law
- Recycling paper and plastic bags efficiently - met with hauler P. LoPresti to discuss District's needs for recycling containers, etc.
- Starting a book and media recycling program through [Park City Green](#).

M. Flanagan reported that he stuffed the recycling checklists in all Bethel Town Hall mailboxes, but had received no responses.

J. Hanson said he was working on goals for **Redding**, including exploring accepting organics at the transfer station.

There were questions about how to recycle [Tyvex](#) envelopes and how to stop unwanted [phone books](#). (Click on hyperlinks for answers to those questions.) J. Iannucci will send out information on these subjects to RRTF members.

C. Reedy noted that the [RecycleCT Foundation](#) is offering grants to schools (deadline November 15) that could be used for recycling bins or other school recycling programs.

Organics Programs

- The Bridgewater organics program is still a curbside collection program in cooperation with AAW. Once DEEP approves the Town's General Permit, the curbside program will cease and residents will be able to drop off their organics at the town garage.

- The Ridgefield organics program is set to start on November 14th. It is a drop off program in which residents will pay \$3 to tip their organics at the Recycling Center. The town has received a \$13,000 grant from DEEP to pay for containers, publicity, etc. 120 residents have signed up and the number is growing daily.
- New Fairfield is still doing outreach and a survey. Their organics drop off program would start in spring 2016 if there is enough interest.
- Newtown's program will start on November 14th as well. There will be no additional fee for residents other than the cost of their annual permit. 150 residents signed up in the first month.

Billboard Contest

The 2016 theme will be Bags to Riches (thanks to D. DeMuth). It will be all about keeping plastic bags out of the recycling single stream. J. Iannucci will bring the templates for each town to the December RRTF meeting. Members should let her know how many templates they will need. C. Praissman said that the feedback she received from HHS coordinator, Meredith McGlynn, was that there needs to be a theme that younger kids can understand.

Waste Oil Contamination

A municipal transfer station in CT unknowingly received waste oil contaminated with PCBs. By the time the PCBs were detected and traced back to the municipal transfer station, multiple sites and haulers had been affected with the total clean up costs over \$200,000, at least a quarter of which was borne by the municipality. While federal and state regulations do not specifically require that municipalities test their waste oil for PCBs, it may no longer be possible to find a waste oil hauler who will pick up from a municipal transfer station unless such off-site testing is done due to the cost and liability of unknowingly transporting a contaminated load. The cost of the off-site testing is typically less than \$100 and should be thought of as an insurance policy. Additional information is available on the [DEEP website](#).

NewTech E-waste List

Here is an updated list of acceptable items that NewTech will take from your transfer station or recycling center. The drivers from NewTech should not be informing you what they will and won't take. We have a contract with the vendor and the acceptable items listed below were agreed on within the contract.

Joel from NewTech has been instructed to communicate directly with HRRA and the TS operators regarding any changes with items they are taking or not taking outside the contract. Otherwise this is the list you may refer to.

Acceptable Items

CFL's
 Televisions – all types
 Monitors – all types
 Computers/Laptops (and peripherals)
 Server equipment
 UPS
 Printers
 Copiers
 Scanners
 Duplicators
 Power Cords
 Batteries
 Stereo Equipment
 DVR/VCR/Blue Ray
 Tape Players
 Radios
 Disk Players
 Telephones (all types)

Video Game Equipment
Remote Controls
Microwave Ovens

Unacceptable Items

Vacuum Cleaners
Air Conditioners
Lamps/Lights
Dehumidifiers
Small Kitchen Appliances (blenders, toasters.....etc)
White Goods (Refrigerators, Stoves, Washers, Dryers, Hot Water Tanks....etc) – Bridgewater and Bethel exempt

- The one day e-waste/shred event in Brookfield on October 17th was a huge success with over 47 pallets of material collected in four hours.
- In the spring of 2016 HRRRA will be going out with an RFP for an e-waste vendor for the region again. The transfer station operators in the region will choose the successful proposer as they did last time.

Transfer Station/Recycling Centers - Comparing Services Across the Region

J. Iannucci passed out a chart comparing the services available and charges to the public for all transfer stations in the region. The chart was previously sent out by e-mail so that towns could add information or change anything that was not correct. Members were encouraged to review the chart one more time and get back to J. Iannucci with any changes needed to make the chart an accurate apples to apples comparison of the various transfer stations in the region. M. Flanagan asked if J. Iannucci would send out a list of all transfer station operators and their contact information to the RRTF members.

TREX Contest

Towns or schools wishing to sign up for this year's TREX contest must do so by November 15th at the following link: [Trex School Program](#). Any member wanting flyers for the program for their schools should contact J. Iannucci ASAP.

Items to be Raised by Members

- D. DeMuth asked about the status of the Putnam transfer station application for Plumtrees Rd in Danbury since it will affect her Bethel neighborhood.
- J. Iannucci reported that HRRRA will soon put out an RFQ for a Recycling Educator to work as a private vendor with HRRRA and provide recycling education programs in all the elementary schools in the region. A copy of the RFQ will be sent to all RRTF members when it is posted.
- E. Rossini asked about the link for getting off junk mail list, i.e. [DMA Choice](#) and [Catalog Choice](#).

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at Noon.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director.